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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Poland

REPORT

SUBJECT Agricultural Activities

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There is attached a ^{1/2} page translation of an official Polish report concerning agricultural activities in Poland during the years 1956 through 1963.

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AGRICULTURAL CIRCLES AND THEIR MEMBERSHIP DURING THE YEARS 1956-1963

<u>Specification</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>June 30, 1963</u>
Agricultural circles	16.470	23,136	29.565
% of towns having circles	40.4	56.8	72.5
Rural housewife circles	6.187	10.521	17.454
Membership, in thousands, of			
agricultural circles	454.0	600.4	840.6
% of farms bigger than			
1/2 hectare having circles	14.1	18.5	25.1
Membership, in thousands, of			
rural housewife circles	117.9	not known	305.5

From the fundamental functions and tasks of the circles it is possible to single out 3 directions of activities:

First, there is the economic investment activity of new circles, which was spelled out in a resolution of the Council of

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Ministers concerning the creation of the Agricultural Development Fund. This direction is fully reflected in the agricultural circles statute.

This direction is the outgrowth of the concrete economic situation of the country. The increase in agricultural production for the years 1959-1965 which was established by the second PZPR Congress, called for the tremendous mobilization of all material and social reserves in agriculture, especially increased investment outlays. Tremendous resources are needed to adequately invest agriculture, especially to modernize it through mechanization. The Agricultural Development Fund was created by the above-mentioned resolution of the Council of Ministers. The Fund has been created from quotas constituting the difference between prices received for compulsory deliveries of grain, potatoes and slaughter animals, made by the farms^{ers} of a given rural commune, and the prices received for deliveries in excess of compulsory deliveries (free market). Of the sum obtained in this manner, 12 percent is designated for additional investments in the machine and agricultural equipment construction industry, and then whatever remains of this (that is, 88 percent) is used to establish the Agricultural Development Fund.

This specific tax which the village pays to the State Treasury, resulting from compulsory deliveries sold at a cheaper price, is presently returned to the village by the State. The agricultural circle in a given rural commune disposes of this fund, with a majority

of the funds being designated for the development of motorization and technical progress in the countryside.

The difference in prices paid out for the Agricultural Development Fund in the Katowice, Krakow and Rzeszow Wojewodztwos for 100 kilograms of grain delivered amounted to 90 zloty, while in the remaining wojewodztwos it was 80 zloty. In those powiats in which as much as over 35 percent of the total of supplied grains are wheat and barley supplied as compulsory deliveries, the difference amounts to 100 zloty. The difference for every 100 kilograms of potatoes is 30 zloty, while for the delivery of slaughter animals, the difference is 850 zloty for every ¹⁰⁰ kilogram of cattle.

^{national}
The ^{national} income plan for the Agricultural Development Fund for the years 1959-1965 called for the accumulation of financial resources amounting to approximately 25 billion zloty. Of this total, approximately 3 billion zloty will be designated for additional investments in the agricultural machine industry. The remaining amount was set aside for the various villages and producer cooperatives and of this amount 20 percent will be made available to the powiat agricultural circle unions for the construction of agronomy stations and other agricultural investments exceeding the needs of a single agricultural circle.

A second course of activity of the agricultural circles outlined in the statute is the postulate of the development and

perfection of the farming profession as well as progressive organizations in agricultural production. There are several concrete tasks for the agricultural circles in this sphere, ^{especially} pertaining to the direct introduction of various forms of progress ^{on} the fragmented private farms. The most urgent production activity will deal with the problem of rational seed management. Agricultural circles have done an ~~enormous~~ ^{much} in this field, especially in the realization of the seed plan in the rural commune, in the various villages and even on individual farms. The agricultural circles are the organizers of the exchange of qualified grain and potato seeds among neighbors. As a result, it should be stated that the seed plan in the rural commune encompasses ^{es} not only all of the agricultural circles but also, with minor exceptions, even the unorganized villages.

An equally important group of tasks undertaken by the circles is the problem of the chemical ~~control~~ ^{of} weeds and plant diseases. They are undertaking various measures among the farmers on a mass scale; they are organizing schooling on this subject, exhibits; they are making various types of equipment available to the farmers, etc.

An important area of work for the agricultural circles is activity connected with the entire complex of problems connected with the use of fertilizers. Efforts ~~should~~ ^{had to} be undertaken to begin a mass propaganda-schooling campaign pertaining to such specific problems as familiarity and popularization ^{of} the use of artificial and organic

~~and~~ fertilizers, ^{and} then efforts ~~should be undertaken~~ to utilize as best as possible the limited fertilizer reserves. Agricultural circles are developing a number of useful initiatives in this field, such as the organized ^{requisitioning} (collective) of artificial fertilizers, their distribution by social self-government commissions, popularization of the necessity of using lime in the soil, increasing the fertilizer potential of the countryside by ^{locally} producing various types of ^{fertilizer} composites, etc.

The agricultural circles play a specific role in the field of educational and ^{Training} ~~activity~~ activity. In practice, various such forms and methods are universally used by the circles. In addition to the traditional winter schooling ^{and} the system of informal talks; more organized forms are being used such as school courses ^{and} with varied programs for different regions, ^{Seminar} courses ~~and seminars~~, actual soil demonstrations, etc. Such forms of agricultural education ^{as} propaganda or reading, subscriptions to agricultural ^{publications} ~~publications~~, the popularization of modern achievements in agricultural science, are also tasks which are undertaken by the agricultural circles. The central figure in the organizational and expert sense is the rural commune agronomist, an official worker of the Agricultural Circle Union. In order to increase the effectiveness of his work and also his social-professional status, a resolution of the Council of Ministers provided for the establishment of an institution in the form of an agronomy ^{station} ~~station~~ in the rural communes. The role and the tasks

of the agronomy ~~center~~^{station} and the rural commune agronomists^{ve} has been defined and ~~precisely~~^{precisely} outlined and will consist largely of providing aid to the countryside in the organization not only of agricultural production, but also simultaneously strengthening the self-government, ^{and} introducing agricultural progress and culture on a mass scale in the rural areas.

Finally, a third direction of activity of the agricultural circles is to provide varied service^s, productive and organizational activity which is intended to correctly utilize the various forms of state aid and ^{to} joint^{ly} realization^e ~~the~~ the tasks resulting from the economic policy of Poland. In recognizing the role of agricultural circles it should be emphasized that the state, through several laws and legal acts, has granted them a number of rights and charged them with responsibility^{ies} and an organizational role in many spheres.

Among such obligations is the above-mentioned task of organizing seed production, the protection of crops, agricultural ~~schooling~~^{training} and education, the management of state ~~lands~~^{lands} belonging to the Land Fund, the preservation of melioration facilities and equipment, participation in the organization of contracts, and primarily the management of the Agricultural Development Fund.

Outlays which have been made (from 1 August 1959 to 30 June 1963) for investments by the agricultural circles from the Agricultural Development Fund and their own resources are as follows:

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for mechanization	4,531	mln zloty - 95%
for organization of a base	131	mln zloty - 2.7%
for remaining investments	<u>112.5</u>	<u>mln zloty - 2.3%</u>
Total	4,774.5	mln zloty

The following outlays have been made by the agricultural circles⁵ union from Agricultural Development Funds during the period beginning with 1 August 1959 - to 30 June 1963:

for construction of agronomy stations	660.6	mln zloty
for remaining investments	<u>193.4</u>	<u>mln zloty</u>
Total	854.0	mln zloty

By the end of 1962, 1,340 agronomy stations ^{ad} have been constructed of which 104 of them were established in already existing facilities. And it is expected that an additional 699 such stations will be constructed in 1963.

MECHANIZATION - The management of tractors and agricultural machines is one of the most important fields of activity of the agricultural circles. By modernizing agriculture, through providing more and more efficient machines and their administration by the peasants self-government, ~~the~~ ^{can} the agricultural circles ~~can~~ increase production, develop the self-government, raise the cultural level of the peasants and assure minimum conditions for the exploitation of machines. From 1959 to July 1963, agricultural circles acquired 25,377 tractors together with other machinery necessary for field work and agricultural

transport. Together with the growth of the machine park of the agricultural circles, there is an increasing tendency to concentrate this equipment.

The number of agricultural circles possessing ^a ~~the~~ greater number of tractors is constantly ^{increasing} ~~growing~~. For example, in 1960, 9.2 percent of the agricultural circles had over 2 tractors, ^{and} ~~as~~ of 30 June 1963, ^{this figure} ~~this figure~~ increased to 22.8 percent.

In order to ensure better conditions for the preservation and maintenance of this equipment, agricultural circles had by the end of 1962 constructed several thousand garages, fuel storage facilities and handy workshops. However, the number of facilities constructed by the agricultural circles ^{is} ~~is~~ still too small when compared to the amount of tractors and machines which are being acquired.

Forms and Methods of Activity of the Agricultural Circles Self-

Government - The role of the peasant self-government in the agricultural circles is of tremendous significance not only for the tasks of developing and increasing agricultural production, but at the same time the activity of these forms should prepare ^{for} ~~the preparation~~ of the future reconstruction and socialist transformation of agriculture. The gradual saturation of the private farming economy with socialized funds provided by the Agricultural Development Fund, should in the future bring about qualitative changes in the countryside which will create conditions for the organization of socialist agriculture.

In addition to increased obligations and responsibilities, the peasant self-government has acquired a greater say in helping to decide ~~the~~ ^{of the} most important problems in the countryside, jointly with the state institutions of agricultural administration. The essence of this cooperation is the economic-social bond which is being strengthened on the basis of the mutual interest of the state and the countryside itself.

Agricultural circles can utilize, within established fields, rights which have been extended to them by the state with regard to all private farms in each village, as, for example, in the field of compulsory weed control, ^{control of} plant diseases and pests, animal

health, and melioration. As a result of concern over the proper management of joint property, peasant members of the circles will send to the self-government authorities the best activists which they have and ~~who~~ ^{who in turn} will represent the interests of the village.

The economic activity of agricultural circles is to be conducted in agreement with the ~~establishments~~ ^{establishments} and directions of the program for the development of agriculture ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ given rural commune and is an integral part of this program. That is why the agricultural circles coordinate its investment plans with the Rural Commune Peoples Council as well as ^{other} important economic plans, and it also submits a report to the Council of the ^{exercise of} functions granted to it by the state.

The agricultural circle cooperates with the Rural Commune Council in the construction of schools, nurseries, movie houses, reading rooms,

libraries, various communal facilities as well as in the conduct of cultural-educational work. At the same time, agricultural circles are the mother organization for other centers of peasant self-government which are active in the countryside, namely, rural housewife circles and for specialized production sections of branch associations. In practice, members of the agricultural circle organize themselves in a separate housewife circle in the village. The purpose of the Rural Housewife Circle is, among other things, to organize the women for participation in ^{the} social, cultural and economic life of the countryside. The Rural Housewife Circles participate in the organization of aid to women in bringing up and ~~carrying~~ caring for children and youths, raising the hygiene and health level of the countryside, ⁱⁿ ~~by~~ establishing playgrounds, laundry rooms, bake shops, bath houses and other service ~~centers~~ ^{centers}. ^{Specialized} ~~Branch~~ unions and associations, of which there are a total of 13 in Poland (7 engaged in crop production and 6 in animal production) are also a form of agricultural self-government and possess their own numerous production centers in their own area. These centers are sections or groups of planters or breeders, who work within the framework of the agricultural circles and whose principal goal is to contract for specialized products such as rape, sugar beets, tobacco, hops, wool, bacon, etc. Agricultural circles and ^{specialized} ~~branch~~ associations represent the producers in trade and cooperative institutions as well as the interests of the farmers in dealings with the state.

Various types of commissions and social controllers established by the agricultural circle self-government and ^{specialized} ~~branch~~ associations work at procurement centers.

It should be emphasized that in their concern over the development of the agricultural economy, agricultural circles cooperate with other organizations which are active in the countryside, hence, with the producer cooperative, with the dairy, gardening, savings-loan, supply and sales cooperative^s, all of which are working for the development of agriculture. The agricultural circle cooperates and helps in the development of the rural youth organizations, ZMW (Rural Youth Union). Simultaneously, one of the obligations of the people's council is to cooperate and help the progressive initiatives of the agricultural self-government of agricultural circles and the branch associations.

The agricultural circle ~~has~~ as a form of self-government is a voluntary^y mass, social-economic peasant organization, which realizes the agricultural policy of the country. It organizes peasants to work for the increase^{ce} and perfection of agricultural production ~~by~~ consolidating individual efforts ^{through} ~~the~~ mass ~~state~~ aid and cooperation of the state.

Together with the progressive increase in social property in the circles, principally in the form of mechanical equipment (tractors, agricultural machines) and the creation of a complete technical-repair

base, the circles are increasingly assuming the complementary functions of enterprises working for the countryside. In connection with this, the need is arising for further working out ^{of} more effective forms of directing and organizing the work of these technical centers. This is linked with the establishment of regions with a relatively high concentration of mechanization, of ensuring a repair base, training the proper amount of specialist-expert cadre, mechanics, and tractor operators.

Hence, the agricultural policy points out the very responsible and strictly defined tasks for the further development of the self-government of agricultural circles: therefore, it is in this manner that it makes clearly evident the complete realization of the program calling for the structural transformation of Polish agriculture.